



## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

### **Reimbursement for Caskets and Urns for Burial of Unclaimed Remains in a National Cemetery or a VA-Funded State or Tribal Veterans' Cemetery**

**AGENCY:** Department of Veterans Affairs.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is updating the monetary reimbursement rates for caskets and urns purchased for interment in a VA national cemetery or a VA-funded State or Tribal Veterans' cemetery of Veterans who die with no known next of kin and where there are insufficient resources for furnishing a burial container. The purpose of this notice is to notify interested parties of the rates that will apply to reimbursement claims that occur during calendar year 2023.

**DATES:** This reimbursement is effective January 1, 2023.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Jerry Sowders, National Cemetery Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, 4850 Lemay Ferry Road, Saint Louis, MO, 63129. The telephone number is 314-416-6369. This is not a toll-free number.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Section 2306(f) of title 38, United States Code, authorizes VA's National Cemetery Administration to furnish a casket or urn for interment in a VA national cemetery or a VA-funded State or Tribal Veterans' cemetery of the unclaimed remains of Veterans for whom VA cannot identify a next of kin, and determines that sufficient financial resources for the furnishing of a casket or urn for burial are not available. VA established regulations to administer this authority as a reimbursement benefit in 38 CFR 38.628.

In accordance with the regulation, reimbursement for a claim received in any calendar year will not exceed the average cost of a 20-gauge metal casket or a durable plastic urn during the fiscal year preceding the calendar year of the claim, as determined by VA.

Average costs are based on market price analysis for 20-gauge metal caskets, designed to contain human remains, with a gasketed seal, and external rails or handles. The same analysis is completed for durable plastic urns, designed to contain human remains, which include a secure closure to contain the cremated remains.

Using this approach, in fiscal year 2022, the average costs were determined to be \$1,115.00 for caskets and \$106.00 for urns. Accordingly, the maximum reimbursement rates payable for qualifying interments occurring during calendar year 2023 are \$1,115.00 for caskets and \$106.00 for urns.

Signing Authority:

Denis McDonough, Secretary of Veterans Affairs, approved this document on December 19, 2022, and authorized the undersigned to sign and submit the document to the Office of the Federal Register for publication electronically as an official document of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

**Jeffrey M. Martin,**

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